DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Lynn Kelley DATE 1/10/83
EXEMPTIONS (b)(1) (b)(3)
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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much longer

but it would not be possible to delay delivery ~~more than one week~~.

4. Our thinking is that the GOI, in order to avoid negotiations and attendant unfavorable publicity, might make an offer to settle the claim with a payment on the same order of magnitude as that claimed by the USG for physical damages to the ship ($7.6 million), say, in the neighborhood of $4 or $5 million. A token payment, such as the $100,000 offered in August 1971, would not be an acceptable solution from our point of view.

5. Text of note to be delivered to MFA, if no satisfactory response is received from Evron ~~within one week~~, follows: BEGIN TEXT:

6. The Government of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Government of Israel and draws its attention to the outstanding claim of the United States against Israel for $7.6 million in compensation for physical damages to the USS Liberty. These damages were incurred as a result of an attack by the armed forces of Israel on the ship as it lay in international waters on June 8, 1967.

Promptly following the attack, the Government of Israel informed the United States Government that it assumed responsibility for the attack and was prepared to make amends for the

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losses, human and material, which resulted.

Although the Government of Israel has satisfactorily compensated the victims of the attack and their survivors, the claim for damages to the ship itself, presented to the Government of Israel on July 1, 1968, has yet to be satisfactorily settled.

In view of the long passage of time since the claim was presented and the lack of a satisfactory response on the part of the Government of Israel, the Department of State hereby requests that negotiations be commenced leading to a payment by the Government of Israel of a sum sufficient to cover the damages to the ship.

The Government of the United States, cognizant of the close and warm relations between it and the Government of Israel, feels that it is in the interests of both governments to settle this long-standing dispute which periodically troubles relations between our two countries.

In the amicable spirit that has always characterized relations between the United States and Israel, we look forward to an early response from the Government of Israel suggesting a time and place for negotiations to begin leading to the settlement of this claim. (Regular Diplomatic Note Closing)

END TEXT.

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